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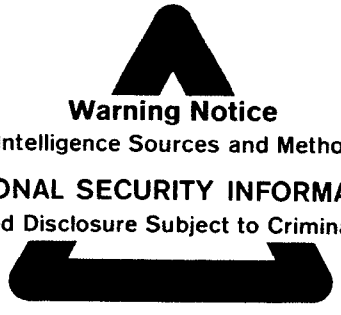

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE US STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS
(13-19 May 1977)

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This compilation is prepared weekly by the Office of Regional and Political Analysis. Inquiries about this issue may be directed to the Africa Division

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RP-M-77-10122
SC04737/77

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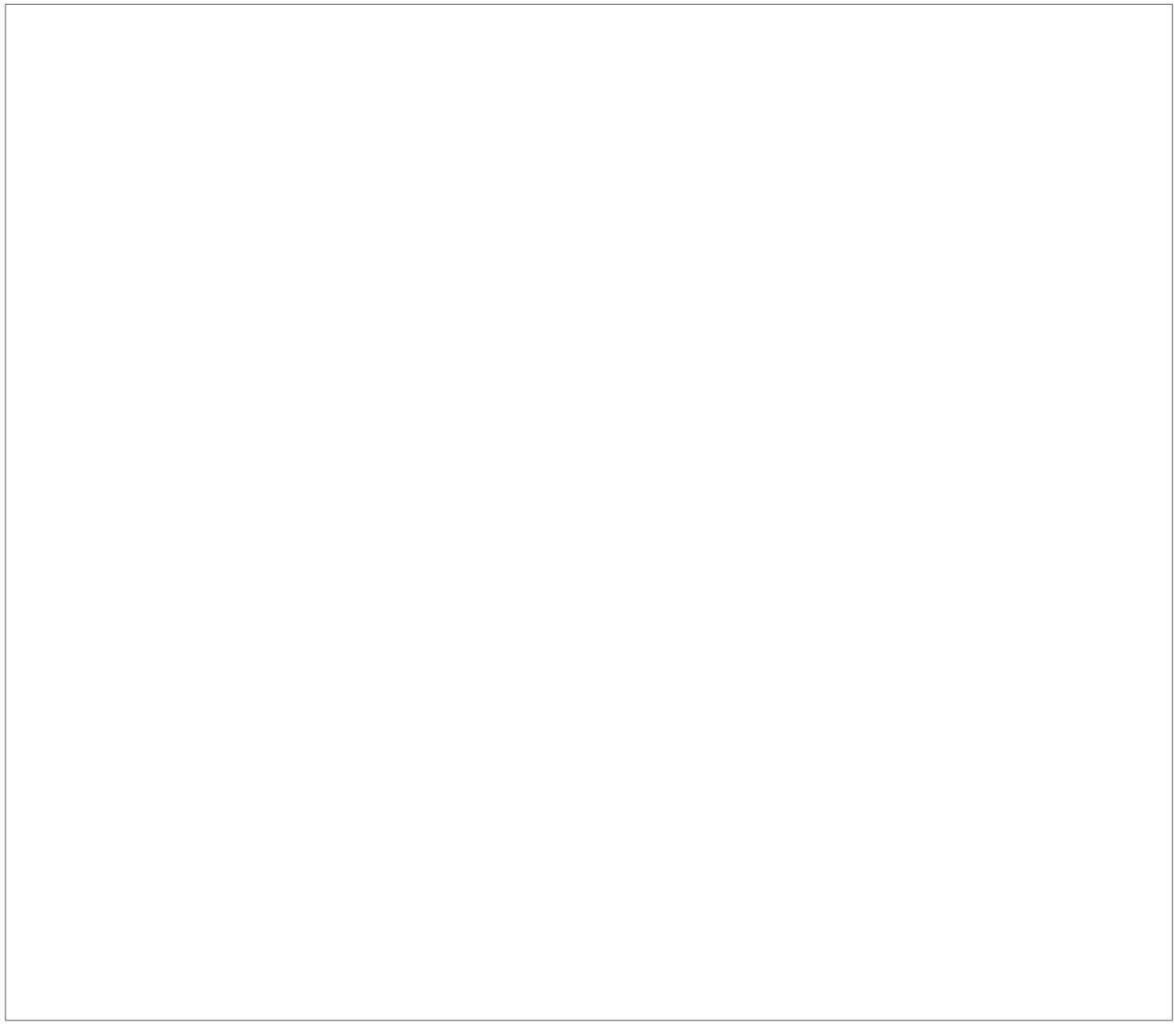

LATIN AMERICA

--Reports of gross violations of human rights in Chile, which had nearly ceased this year, are once again on the rise. 3.3(b)(1)

the Pinochet government is reverting to the kind of practices that has relegated it to pariah status internationally. Available evidence suggests that President Pinochet's secret police organization is behind a recent rash of illegal detentions, incidences of torture, and unaccountable "disappearances." Most of the targets appear to be socialists,

3.5(c)

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but some communists and Christian Democrats are also victims. *This backsliding comes at a particularly bad time for Chile, since a number of Western European governments were beginning to take note of human rights improvements and to lessen their criticism of the regime.*

--*The Chilean government announced last Tuesday that it was prepared to accept a proposal by the Denmark-based Sakharov Committee to free 13 prisoners in exchange for an equal number held by the USSR.* The committee has appealed to Chilean Communist Party chief Luis Corvalan for help in facilitating Soviet cooperation, but he is not expected to have much influence in concluding a new arrangement. Corvalan, who was released last December in return for Soviet dissident Bukovsky, was not pleased with the Soviet deal in which he had no say and was evidently unhappy about giving up his martyrdom to live in Moscow.

--President Balaguer of the Dominican Republic is taking steps to open a dialogue with opposition political leaders to ensure a peaceful presidential election in 1978. [redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

Balaguer is deeply impressed with the human rights stand of the Carter administration and is concerned about possible violence or military intervention if a volatile political situation develops. Balaguer hopes that he can gain full backing for his candidacy if he promises to make this his last term and amends the constitution to prohibit re-election in the future.

--*A Permanent Human Rights Assembly has been organized in Bolivia under the sponsorhip of several major church groups.* The new organization [redacted] has ties to the important Latin American Episcopal Conference (CELAM) and other international and religious groups promoting the advancement of human rights. 3.3(b)(1)

--*The Argentine Catholic Church has issued its first formal criticism over the frequent disappearance and kidnappings of citizens, the lack of due process, and the use of torture on prisoners.* It warned against the excesses of the antisubversion campaign and said that government repression would only drive people into the arms of the Marxists. President Videla adopted a moderate tone in responding to the church's statement and noted that the government shared the concern of the church over "a very sad reality." Videla was careful to point out that the church's

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3.5(c)

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stand did not constitute a confrontation with the state. The Argentine Catholic hierarchy may be responding to the Vatican's increased emphasis on taking a stronger position in defense of human rights and on adopting a more critical position toward governments that violate them.

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